Countries supporting India's permanent Membership of Security Council

3607. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to become a permanent Member in the United Nations Security Council;

(b) the countries which are supporting India for inclusion as a Member in the Security Council; and

(c) the stand taken by Government in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The leader of the Indian delegation to the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said in his speech in the Plenary Meeting that given any criteria population, size of the economy or future potential, contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and peace-keeping—Indian deserves to be a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The working Group of the United Nations General Assembly on the "Questions of Equitable Representation on and increase in the permanent membership of the Security Council" is not discussing individual candidatures, but the principles and criteria that should govern an expansion, and the member States have not, therefore, been required to take a stand on the candidatures of any country. India will continue to actively participate in the discussions in the Working Group.

Clarifications about India's Nuclear Plans sought by Japan

3608. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Government have sought a clarification from the Indian Government recently, regarding the latter's nuclear weapons plans and ballistic missiles development and development initiatives, as per the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 30th March, 1995 entitled; "Japan to seek India's views to N-Plans"?

(b) if so; the facts in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Second High ODA Mission on Economic and Technological Cooperation from Japan held talks with officials in the Ministry of Finance on 28-3-95, during which, in accordance with Japanese ODA policy since 1992, the Japanese side referred to certain non-economic factors non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile delivery systems.

(c) The Japanese delegation was briefed about India's commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament. It was pointed out that these isues are discussed regularly in Foreign Office consultations.

India's participation in the ministerial level meeting with EU Troika

3609. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been invited by Singapore and ASEAN, so far to attend/ participate in the Europe-Asia Summit likely to be held in Bangkok or Singapore next year;

(b) whether the Minister of External Affairs, who returned to India after attending the ministerial level meeting with European Union troika in Paris recently, has sounded the EU on India's feeling/ position in this regard;

(c) what were the other issues concerning India in which he made our stand clear particularly on India's participating in the NPT review meeting scheduled in April this year, India's claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council and enhancing India's political, Economic and Commercial interaction to our mutual advantage; and

(d) whether further talks with troika are likely to be held in New Delhi; if so when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level talks held in Paris on 6 April, views were exchanged on the further development of political and economic relations between India and the EU. In this context, our interest in securing enhanced market access for our exports to the EU on preferential term was projected to the EU-Troika. The importance of the EU approaching relations with India on the basis of a shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and the vast potential for developing mutually beneficial relations, was also underlined. India's perceptions regarding our regional environment, including Indo-Pak relations and prospects for SAARC cooperation, as well as our consistent stand on the NPT, were also conveyed to the EU-Troika.

(d) In terms of the Indo-EU Joint Political statement issued in December, 1993, Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level dialogue has been institutionalised on an annual basis. The EU-Troika has been invited to visit India for the next round of talks in New Delhi in 1996. Mutually convenient dates for these talks are to be determined subsequently.

Indians and Pakistanis in each others jails

3610. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian citizens are presently lodged in each of the Pakistan Jails;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) who is the oldest prisoner;

(d) how many Pakistanis are in Indian Jails;

(e) whether Government would take steps to hand over prisoners of each nation of humanitarian grounds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if the answer to part (e) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) According to available information, at present there are 1161 indian prisoners, under detention in Pakistani jails. Pakistani authorities have not informed us of the whereabouts of detention of these prisoners, some of whom are believed to be in Pakistani custody once 1965 and 1971 conflict.

(d) We do not consider it in public interest to disclose this information in Parliament.

(e) and (f) The question of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan had repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue.

(g) Pakistan does not furnish details of the Indian prisoners lodged in various jails in Pakistan on a case by case basis.

Meeting of Indo-China Joint Working Group

3611. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an Editorial published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 7th March, 1995 on the recently held Indo-China Joint Working Group's meeting in New Delhi on lessening of force deployment along the two countries 4060 kilometer borders; and